

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The following listing provides the amended claims with deleted material crossed out and new material underlined to show the changes made.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically mounting a plurality of remote volumes to a client, comprising:

without receiving a request from a user of said client to mount said plurality of remote volumes, requesting of a first server said mounting of said volumes;
returning by said first server a set of mounting parameters; and
automatically mounting said plurality of volumes utilizing said returned parameters, ~~said parameters, said volumes located remote to said client,~~ said volumes after mounting behaving as ~~would a volume~~ native to said client, even though said volumes are located remote to said client.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said requesting includes:
authenticating said client by said first server via an interface to said first server, said client authentication characterized by a login identification (ID).

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein said authenticating includes:
supplying by the client said login ID and a password intended for said login ID.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said authenticating further includes:

comparing said supplied password and said login ID with a stored password on said first server associated with said login ID; and

if said stored password matches said supplied password for said login ID, then characterizing said client as successfully authenticated with said login ID.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 that further includes:
detecting the presence of a cookie on said client, said cookie indicating by its presence that said client has installed a plug-in module; and
if said cookie is not detected, terminating any said volume mounting.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein said returning includes:
if successfully authenticated, retrieving said parameters from a profile datastore on said first server, said parameters indexed therein by said login ID; and
assembling a mounting command block, said command block consisting of a mount command and said retrieved parameters.
7. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said requesting is initiated by an event occurring on said client requiring said mounting.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said returning includes:
retrieving said parameters from a profile datastore on said first server, said parameters indexed therein by an identifier for said event; and
assembling a mounting command block, said command block consisting of a mount command and said retrieved parameters.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said first server returns said parameters via a plug-in module installed on said client.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein automatically mounting includes:
obtaining an address for said first server;
comparing said address for said first server against a built-in list of approved servers; and
if said address is not contained on said built-in list, then terminating the process of automatically mounting.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 further wherein if said address is contained on said built-in list, then:
- passing of said parameters by said plug-in to an application programming interface (API) of said client; and
- completing the mounting of said volume by said API, said mounting achieved absent of user intervention.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said remote interface is an Hypertext Transport Protocol capable browser.
13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said parameters include, for each of said volumes, a volume name, a server alias, a volume username, and a volume password.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein said server alias is resolved to an address of a second server, said second server housing the volume identified by the corresponding said volume name.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said address of said second server is an Internet Protocol (IP) address.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said resolving is achieved by:
- looking up said server alias in a mapping table; and
- retrieving from said look up said address of said server from said mapping table.
17. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein said mounting command block is contained in an extensible markup language (XML) document.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein said mounting command block is contained in an extensible markup language (XML) document.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically mounting volumes over a network, said system comprising:

a client configured to automatically request said mounting of said volumes without the need for a user of said client to request said mounting of said volumes; and

a server coupled to said client, said server configured to return a mounting command block to said client.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 19 further comprising:

a plug-in installed in said client, said plug-in configured to approve the address of said server.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 20 further comprising:

an application programming interface (API) coupled to said plug-in and configured to automatically mount said volumes specified in said mounting command block, without the need for user intervention.

22. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon which when executed cause automatically mounting a plurality of volumes to a client, said instructions performing:

without receiving a request from a user of said client to mount said plurality of volumes, requesting of a first server said mounting of said plurality of volumes;

returning by said first server a set of mounting parameters; and

automatically mounting said plurality of volumes utilizing said returned-parameters, ~~said parameters, said volumes located remote to said client~~, said volumes after mounting behaving as ~~would a volume~~ native to said client, even though said volumes are located remote to said client, ~~without the need for user intervention.~~

23. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having a processor and memory, an apparatus for automatically mounting a plurality of remote volumes to said computer system, said apparatus comprising:

a plug-in module configured to receive from a server a mounting command block, said mounting command block ~~to include~~ comprising volume mounting parameters; and

an application programming interface coupled to said plug-in module and configured to automatically mount said volumes specified in said mounting command block, said mounting performed without the need for user intervention.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically mounting a plurality of volumes to a client, said apparatus comprising:

means for requesting of a first server said mounting of said volumes without receiving a request from a user of said client to mount said plurality of volumes;

means for returning by said first server a set of mounting parameters; and

means for automatically mounting said plurality of volumes utilizing said returned parameters, ~~said parameters, said volumes located remote to said client~~, said volumes after mounting behaving as ~~would a volume~~ native to said client, even though said volumes are located remote to said client ~~said mounting performed without the need for user intervention~~.